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# State of Utah

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July 11, 1990

TO: File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *dd*  
Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: Site Inspection on July 6, 1990 of Interstate Brick's Big Cottonwood Mine Site, M/035/003, Salt Lake County, Utah

On July 6, 1990 Holland Shepherd and myself visited the Big Cottonwood Mine site located on the east bench of the Salt Lake Valley near Holladay. No one else was at the site during our inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the type and amount of work required to reclaim the site.

The site consists of an open pit cut into the hillside, with an asphalt pad and two asphalt roads, down to the existing housing development roads. The entire disturbed area is approximately 4 acres. The asphalt pad and roads cover approximately 1 acre, while the other 3 acres account for the remainder of the pit floor. Reclamation for the site would consist of ripping the asphalt, doing some minor regrading, and seeding the entire area. The exposed highwall has undergone some natural erosion as was indicated by talus piles. Interstate Brick is currently held responsible for reclaiming the site by a reclamation bond. The original mine permit was for an area of 10 acres.

This site inspection was prompted by a development company interested in creating a housing development on the old mine site. The site has been inactive since 1983, but was a focus of interest in 1983 when the slope above the pit highwall showed signs of instability.

A study was performed shortly thereafter, which evaluated the slope stability and the probability and extent of a landslide. After examining the site and the slope above the highwall, building a housing development directly below the slope in question, without taking into account any slope stability measures, does not seem prudent. The study completed in 1986 by Seegmiller International, shows a potential slide zone covering a portion of the mine site, as well as a portion of the existing housing development.

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The current developer wishes to acquire the property from Interstate Brick, post a reclamation bond and create the post mining land use of a housing development. The development would substitute for reclamation of the site and allow for release of the bond. The developer has presented a plan containing a "no-build zone", which would not include housing construction directly in the path of the possible slide.

We observed large boulders and rocks on the ground at the base of the highwall on the southern portion of the disturbance. This area is not included as part of the area of instability identified in the Seegmiller Report. However, the evidence of rocks at the base of the cliff or highwall indicates that rock spalling has occurred and will probably continue to occur.

Our initial recommendation for this site is that areas identified in the Seegmiller Report and areas affected by rock spalling, be removed from any post mining land use, which includes housing. Such areas should be, at a minimum, reclaimed back to natural condition. The area which could potentially be effected by a slide should be reclaimed in a manner which would mitigate a slide, i.e. berms could be constructed at the base of the unstable slope, which would reduce material movement in the event of a slide.

jb  
MNM035003.1



BIG COTTONWOOD TIL - I MIFSTATE BRICK

M/035/003

7-6-90

100K100 AS-SL





BIG COTTONWOOD PIT - INTERSTATE BRICK  
M/035/00'S

7-6-70

LOOKING AS-SE FROM SLOPE W. of PIT